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EXAMINER

JONES, DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/503,478

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, NORIAKI

Examiner

David L Jones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10 December 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-21, 23-28, and 30, the office maintains the 35 USC 102(b) reject as Boswell (US 5,559,933) anticipates the claims as shown in rejections 1-30 below. In response to applicant's arguments that Boswell does not teach or detail the ability to manage the record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices. Boswell teaches that the DEPCON PC component 134 executes on a PC 114. The DEPCON component handles print file transfer, administration, and printing functions; DEPCON PC component contains a file viewer that allows a user to preview print files, perform searches on files, copy portions of a print file to a WINDOWS clipboard, and print some or all of a file. DEPCON PC includes providing custom header and trailer pages for print files, and logging of records for cost accounting, print job tracking, or statistical reports. Therefore, for the above stated reasons Boswell anticipates the claims as stated.

3. After further review, the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 7, 14, 22, and 29, as being unpatentable over Boswell and further in view of Kraslavsky et al. (US 5,537,626), have been changed to a 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Boswell. Boswell clearly states in column

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13, lines 65-67, and column 14, lines 1-5, that each file mask in the file mask library contains mask criteria, a file name, and possibly contains a print attribute library name, a physical or logical printer name, and/or a Transfer Attribute Library entry name. Matches might take place on run identifier, use identifier, file name, file qualifier, file cycle, account number, file type, project identifier, host system name, print queue name, or number of pages in a print file. Which anticipates claims 7, 14, 22, and 29.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to new claims 31-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. The objection with regard to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: In fig. 10, #S202, the specification has been changed to reflect afore mentions reference sign. Therefore, in amendment of 12/10/2003, the objections to the drawings have been overcome, and are withdrawn.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boswell (US 5,559,933).

Regarding claim 1, Boswell details an information processing apparatus (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from the plurality of terminal devices (fig. 3, items 112, 114, 116, 118) comprising:

specifying means (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices;

and first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing a terminal device that has been specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer, and

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management means (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Regarding claim 2, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises that further comprises:

a second designating means (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18) for designating a printer that is to print image information;

wherein said first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

Regarding claim 3, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network (column 14, lines 30-50).

Regarding claim 4, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein said specifying means includes a management database for managing image information as image file names; and

wherein said specifying means specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database (column 9, lines 50-67, column 10, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 5, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device (column 16, lines 34-60).

Regarding claim 6, Boswell discloses an apparatus that further comprise a totalization means (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 14-44) to total statistical information analyzation based upon attribute information in said management database.

Regarding claim 7, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein the attribute information includes in column 13, lines 65-67, and column 14, lines 1-5, that each file mask in the file mask library contains mask criteria, a file name, and possibly contains a print attribute library name, a physical or logical printer name, and/or a Transfer Attribute Library entry name. Matches might take place on run identifier, use identifier, file name, file qualifier, file cycle, account number, file type, project identifier, host system name, print queue name, or number of pages in a print file.

Regarding claim 8, Boswell details a method for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from the plurality of terminal devices (fig. 3, items 112, 114, 116, 118) said method comprising:

a specifying step (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing a terminal device that has been specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer, and

management step (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Regarding claim 9, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises that further comprises:

a second designating step (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18) for designating a printer that is to print image information;

wherein said first designating step (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

Regarding claim 10, Boswell discloses a method wherein said first designating step instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network (column 13, lines 9-18).

Regarding claim 11, Boswell discloses a method wherein said specifying step specifies a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names (column 16, lines 51-60).

Regarding claim 12, Boswell discloses a method wherein the image file name (column 16, lines 51-60) is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device (column 12, lines 44-64).

Regarding claim 13, Boswell discloses a method further comprises a totalization step of totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database (column 9, lines 14-44).

Regarding claim 14, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

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Regarding claim 15, Boswell discloses a computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus (column 15, lines 54-63; fig. 7, #290), comprising:

code of a specifying step of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from a plurality of terminal devices;

code of a designating step of instructing a specified terminal device to transfer the image information to a printer; and

code of a management step (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Regarding claim 16, Boswell discloses an information processing apparatus (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) comprising:

specifying means (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices;

and first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing that the image information, which has been stored in an image storage device specified by said specifying means, is transferred to a printer, and

management means (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Regarding claim 17, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises:

a second designating means (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18) for designating a printer that is to print image information;

wherein said first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

Regarding claim 18, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 3, are applicable.

Regarding claim 19, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein said specifying means includes a management database (column 9, lines 50-67, column 10, lines 1-5) for managing image information as image file names; said specifying means specifying an image storage device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

Regarding claim 20, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 5, are applicable.

Regarding claim 21, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 6, are applicable.

Regarding claim 22, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

Regarding claim 23, Boswell details a method of controlling an information processing

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apparatus (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) comprising:

specifying step (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices via a network;

first designating step (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing that the image information, which has been stored in an image storage device specified by said specifying means, is transferred to a printer, and

management step (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Regarding claim 24, Boswell discloses an apparatus wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises:

a second designating means (fig. 7, #276, column 13, lines 1-18) for designating a printer that is to print image information;

wherein said first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

Regarding claim 25, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 3, are applicable.

Regarding claim 26, Boswell details a method wherein said specifying step includes specifying an image storage device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon

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an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names (column 16, lines 34-60).

Regarding claim 27, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 5, are applicable.

Regarding claim 28, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 6, are applicable.

Regarding claim 29, arguments are analogous for those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

Regarding claim 30, Boswell details computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling a printing system, comprising:

code of a specifying step (column 9, lines 17-49) of specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from a terminal device; and

code of a designating step (column 9, lines 17-49) of instructing that the image information, which has been stored in a specified image storage device, be transferred to a printer;

management step (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for managing record information of the printing performed by each of the terminal devices according to the instruction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boswell as applied to claims 1-30 above, and further in view of Yamazaki (US 6,639,690).

Regarding claim 31, Boswell details an information processing apparatus (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from the plurality of terminal devices (fig. 3, items 112, 114, 116, 118) comprising:

specifying means (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices;

and first designating means (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing a terminal device that has been specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer.

Boswell teaches that in column 14, lines 51-60 that the DEPCON system also provides a print preview mode of operation where any print file may also be viewed in text mode without printing the file. Boswell does not explicitly detail the ability to control a display device to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

However, Yamazaki teaches the ability to display a low resolution of the image (column 13, lines 47-54 and column 14, lines 41-46), which is retrieved by the parameter coordination subsection (fig. 3, #76) and its thumbnail images are seen on the display (fig. 1, #20).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Boswell ability to view images before printing on the display with Yamazaki ability to view the image as a thumbnail on a display.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to display frames before and after the image of interest, and at the same time to carry out further accurate verification for printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Boswell with Yamazaki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 31.

Regarding claim 32, Boswell teaches that in column 14, lines 51-60 that the DEPCON system also provides a print preview mode of operation where any print file may also be viewed in text mode without printing the file. Boswell does not explicitly detail the ability to control a display device to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added. Boswell does not explicitly detail an acquisition means for acquiring image information stored in a terminal device in accordance with a display request or the list of print orders from the terminal device; or a transfer means for generating a thumbnail image based on the image information and transferring the thumbnail image to the terminal device.

Yamazaki does teach the an acquisition means (fig. 3, #76, column 13, lines 47-54) for acquiring image information stored in a terminal device in accordance with a display request or the list of print orders from the terminal device; and a transfer means (fig. 3, #76, column 13, lines 59-64) for generating a thumbnail image based on the image information and transferring the thumbnail image to the terminal device.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention by one skilled in the art to combine the ability of Yamazaki with Boswell to be able to manage the images from the thumbnail images.

Regarding claim 33, Boswell details a method of controlling an information processing apparatus (fig. 4, #134, column 9, lines 17-49) comprising:

specifying step (column 13, lines 19-31, Fig. 3, #272) for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored (column 6, lines 46-63), in accordance with print requests from said plurality of terminal devices via a network;

first designating step (fig. 7, #278, column 13, lines 1-18) for instructing that the image information, which has been stored in an image storage device specified by said specifying means, is transferred to a printer, and

Boswell teaches that in column 14, lines 51-60 that the DEPCON system also provides a print preview mode of operation where any print file may also be viewed in text mode without printing the file. Boswell does not explicitly detail the ability to control a display device to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

However, Yamazaki teaches the ability to display a low resolution of the image (column 13, lines 47-54 and column 14, lines 41-46), which is retrieved by the parameter coordination subsection (fig. 3, #76) and its thumbnail images are seen on the display (fig. 1, #20).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Boswell ability to view images before printing on the display with Yamazaki ability to view the image as a thumbnail on a display.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to display frames before and

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after the image of interest, and at the same time to carry out further accurate verification for printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Boswell with Yamazaki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 33.

Regarding claim 34, Boswell details computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling a printing system, comprising:

code of a specifying step (column 9, lines 17-49) of specifying an image storage device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from a terminal device; and

code of a designating step (column 9, lines 17-49) of instructing that the image information, which has been stored in a specified image storage device, be transferred to a printer;

Boswell teaches that in column 14, lines 51-60 that the DEPCON system also provides a print preview mode of operation where any print file may also be viewed in text mode without printing the file. Boswell does not explicitly detail the ability to control a display device to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

However, Yamazaki teaches the ability to display a low resolution of the image (column 13, lines 47-54 and column 14, lines 41-46), which is retrieved by the parameter coordination subsection (fig. 3, #76) and its thumbnail images are seen on the display (fig. 1, #20).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Boswell ability to view images before printing on the display with Yamazaki ability to view the image as a thumbnail on a display.

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The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to display frames before and after the image of interest, and at the same time to carry out further accurate verification for printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Boswell with Yamazaki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 34.

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Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L Jones whose telephone number is (703) 305-4675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (7:00am - 3:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David L. Jones



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